

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

June 26, 2023

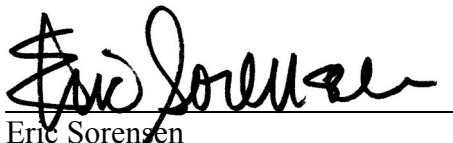
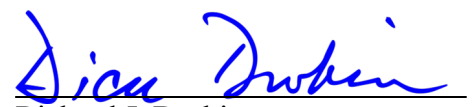
Dear Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of over 75,000 Illinois producers, we respectfully request that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiate the process for permitting emergency haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for Illinois livestock farmers. For the past few months, Illinois farmers continue to experience a prolonged period of drought which is impacting producers throughout the state.

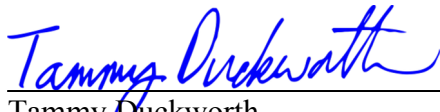
The Illinois Farm Bureau held an emergency conference call on June 21st with Illinois congressional staff and state USDA officials to discuss the drought conditions. Farmers have reported a loss of forage production. In addition, the latest drought monitor from the National Weather Service (NWS) shows much of west central Illinois, north central Illinois and southeast Iowa in a severe drought. In the coming days, the NWS forecasts a continuation of hot, dry weather for most of the state.

Please authorize the emergency haying and grazing declaration to bring much needed relief to our livestock producers. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and please contact Nadia Cortez at Nadia.Cortez@mail.house.gov with questions.

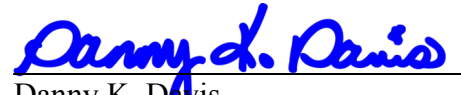
Sincerely,


Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

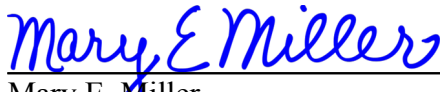
CC: Scott Halpin, Farm Service Agency State Executive Director



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress